

## 5 Abstract

The invention relates to a process for coating a material surface, comprising the steps of:

- (a) applying to the material surface a tie layer comprising a polyionic material;
- (b) covalently binding a bifunctional compound comprising an ethylenically unsaturated
- 10 double bond to the tie layer; and
- (c) graft polymerizing a hydrophilic monomer onto the compound comprising the ethylenically unsaturated double bond.

- The coated articles that are obtainable by the process of the invention have desirable
- 15 characteristics regarding adherence to the substrate, durability, hydrophilicity, wettability, biocompatibility and permeability and are thus useful for the manufacture of biomedical articles such as ophthalmic devices.

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